

Ten National Hot Topics in Special Education

From my Perspective

*Emerging Trends
Panel Members
Need to Know*

2014



-ONE- REAUTHORIZATIONS



WHAT IS THE LATEST?

No Word on IDEA or ESEA Reauthorization

2004–2014 – IDEA

2001–2014 – ESEA

10 years and Counting

- Usually re-authorizations occur every 5 years.
- We are into IDEA over 10 years. Many things have changed and a new law is needed.
- ESEA was last authorized in 2001.



Issues that Need to be Addressed

- Virtual Special Education
- Data and Fiscal Issues
- Connecting ESEA/IDEA
- Results Driven Accountability
- Indicator 17—SSIP
- MTSS/RTI
- Supreme Court Decisions
- If and When, Professional Development Will be Required

-TWO-

**State Systemic
Improvement Plan
(SSIP)**



INDICATOR 17

THE SUPER INDICATOR

3 Phases of SSIP

1. Special Education Data Collection
2. Develop SSIP
3. Evaluate SSIP

Involve Stakeholders

Issues

- APR Indicators have been modified
- The SSIP process encourages collaboration
- School district directors will be informed and involved
- Major challenge-OSEP has taken away the primary technical assistance mechanism to address compliance and results issues-MPRRC
- Professional development will be key to keep everyone in the loop
- OSEP will be conducting on-site or conference call visits to each State

-THREE-

State Core Standards



Forty-seven States have signed on to a national core standards. This will have a major impact on public schools and will require a shift in focus and a need for massive professional development.

STATE CORE STANDARDS

The change will help level the playing field and should help children who move to another school district or State.

There has been major controversy and misunderstanding about the lack of public input in the process. States are adopting their own name to describe the process.

State Core Standards and Special Education

- How will the core standards impact services for children with disabilities? There will need to be an effort to incorporate the core standards consideration in the IEP process.
- Special education staff and parents will need information and training on this shift.

State Core Standards and Special Education

- Teacher training programs will need to get on board.
- Standard based IEPs
- IEP teams will require training.
- Provide parents with information on the standards.
- States will need to ramp up professional development.

-FOUR-

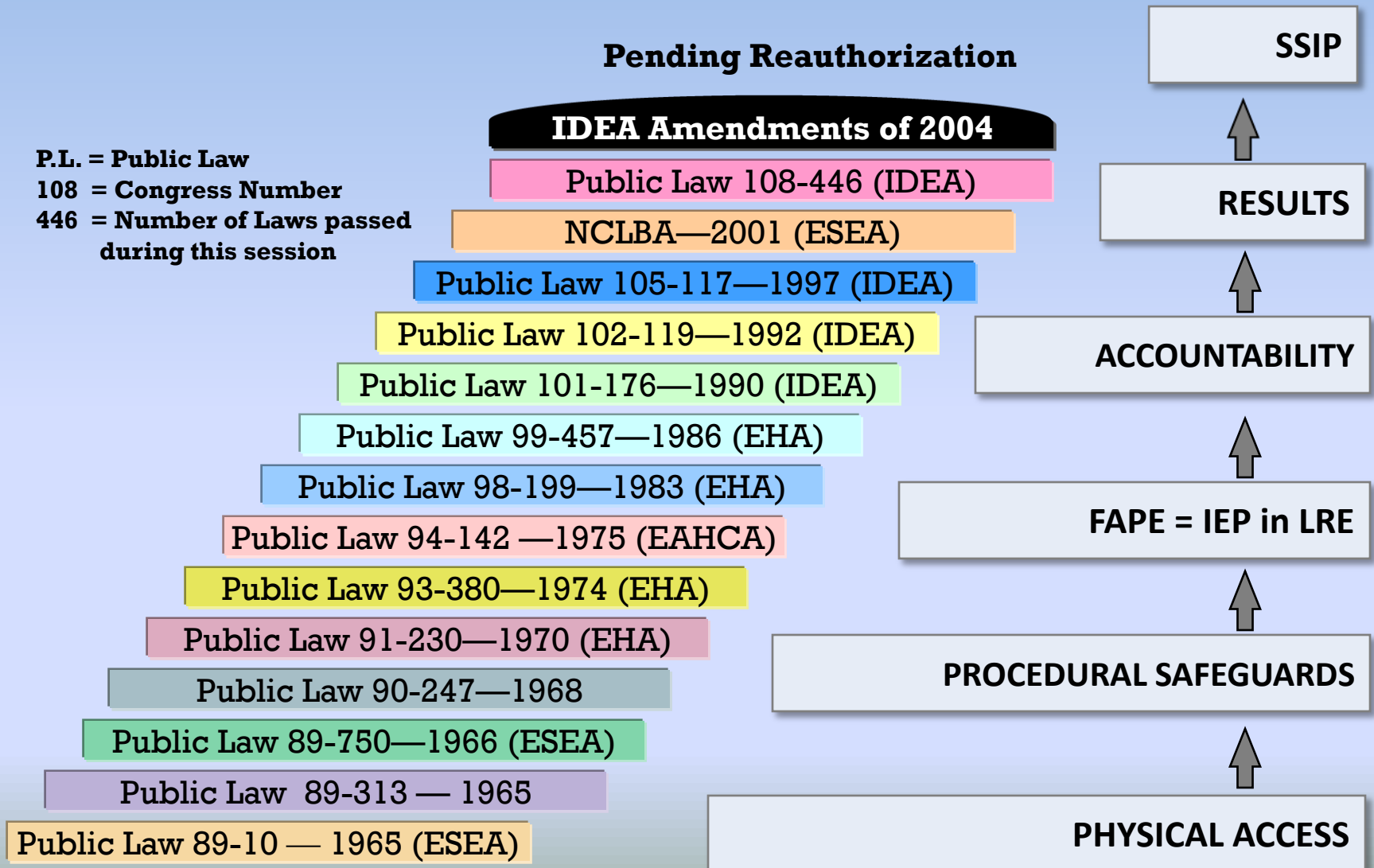
Results Driven Accountability (RDA)



Last year, the OSEP began talking and asking for stakeholder input regarding Results Driven Accountability (RDA).

Compliance **→** **Results**

The Legislative History of Special Education



Focus on Results

- State determinations were based on the results indicators.
- OSEP is developing a results-oriented accountability process.
- There will be more attention paid to the results indicators.
- This move will not change the requirements of compliance.
- Next re-authorization will address results and accountability issues.

Key RDA Stakeholders

- Parents
- Parent groups (PTI)
- Advisory Panel
- Interagency Coordinating Council
- State Directors / Part C Coordinators
- All CSPD Partners



-FIVE-

Fiscal Accountability



Fiscal accountability in special education continues to be a very hot topic, both at the State and school district levels.

MOE

MOFE

Excess Costs

Fiscal Accountability

- Fiscal is part of the general supervision responsibility of the State Education Agency and school districts.
- SEAs and LEAs are now monitored on fiscal accountability requirements.
- OSEP is proposing the creation of a Fiscal Accountability Center.

-Six-

ESEA Waivers



“No Child Left Behind” is left behind and NCLB is a dying acronym. States have been allowed to submit ESEA waivers that, if approved, excuses them from NCLB requirements, but establishes new accountability requirements.

ESEA Waiver

- Currently 42 States have approved ESEA waivers.
- States must show in their waiver how they will have high accountability standards that demonstrate children are making process as well as how States assist low performing schools. Focus is on individual schools.

ESEA WAIVER

CONTINUED

- Major issue: When ESEA is reauthorized, federal accountability standards will apply.
- Waivers provide a good idea of what will be included in the new ESEA.

-Seven-



School Climate, Safe Schools and Mental Health

Safe schools is a hot topic because of incidents throughout the United States where children are bullied directly or become victims of cyber bullying.

School Climate, Safe Schools and Bullying

Safe schools and a positive school climate lead to better performance for all children.



Related Issue Mental Health

- Our country does a good job in addressing the needs of students with physical and health care needs. There is more stigma in relation to individuals with mental health issues.
- There are growing numbers of students with mental health problems and a need for services.

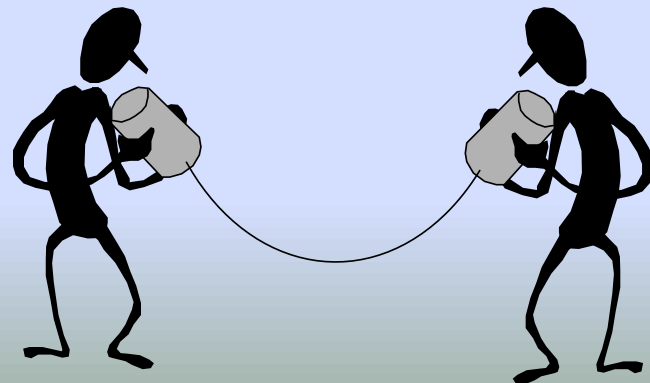
Mental Health Options

There is a drastic shortage of programs and services for students who need mental health interventions in and out of school.



Mental Health Collaboration

There is a lack of collaboration and communication between different agencies that provide mental health services.



-Eight- Cradle to College/Career Movement



Creating a pipeline where all critical partners and individuals are working together for the common cause of creating a seamless system of support and collaboration for families, children, and service providers.



Cradle to Career Pipeline

Transportation, Health, Mental Health, Housing, Financial

**ECD & Child
Care Providers**

**After-
School
Programs**

**Civic, Social,
Work
Opportunities**

**Social &
Strategic
Supports**

**Placement
& Coaching**

**Early
Childhood**

K-12 System

**Post-
Secondary**

**Work &
Career**

Families

Peers

Community Members

Part C – Section 619 – Part B

College or Career



Nationally, for every **100** ninth grade students...



68 students graduate from high school four years later...



40 students immediately enter college...



27 students are still enrolled in their second year...



and **18** students graduate with either an associate's degree within three years or a bachelor's degree within six years.

Impact

Dropping out...

- 7,000 students leave school each day.
- At this rate, 13 million will leave school in the next decade.
- Economic impact (2009 dropout)
 - Each dropout costs the nation of \$260,000 over his/her lifetime
 - If all had graduated, benefit of \$335 billion to nation's economy over their lifetimes



Ultimate Outcome

Each child will complete school and be meaningfully involved with post-secondary activities including college and/or career.



Ultimate Outcome

School Completion

Each child will complete school and be meaningfully involved with post-secondary activities including college and/or career.



-Nine- Virtual Special Education



Largely because of advancement in technology, virtual education programs are being developed and offered throughout the world.

*Kahn Academy



IDEA and Virtual Education

- IDEA was last reauthorized in 2004—ten years ago! Virtual special education was not an issue in 2004. The current regulations are silent on the issue.
- Advancements in technology have outpaced the IDEA regulations.
- Virtual school programs are popping up on the internet.

IDEA and Virtual Education

- How does the IEP team function?
- How are children evaluated?
- Who monitors progress and compliance?
- How does LRE work?
- What about related services?
- Who pays for the technology?
- Role of parents?

Virtual Special Education

There is a place for virtual special education:

- Students with severe health issues.
- Students with extreme behavior issues.
- Students in rural and frontier areas.
- Enhancing skills through the use of technology.



-Ten- Sequestration Cuts



- ✓ The Budget Control Act of 2011 established a joint select committee in Congress charged with the task of developing a proposal to achieve at least \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction. Unfortunately, they could not reach an agreement.
- ✓ We experienced major cuts last year.



Breaking News!!!!

House and Senate/Republican and Democratic leaders have come to an agreement.

In a rebuke of sequestration and the sweeping funding cuts it mandated, lawmakers on Capitol Hill unveiled a bipartisan \$1.1 Trillion federal funding bill, which contains numerous investments in special and gifted education programs including:



More Breaking News!!!!

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- \$500 Million increase in IDEA's program for school-aged children;
- \$19 Million increase on IDEA's infants and toddlers with disabilities program;
- \$7.6 Million increase in IDEA's technical assistance and dissemination program;
- \$7 Million increase for IDEA's parent information centers;
- \$6.7 Million increase for research in special education;
- \$5 Million for the Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act which has not been funded since 2011.



Other Hot Topics?
Questions?
Comments?



Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education



This presentation was developed by the Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) Center, the technical assistance division of the Center for Persons with Disabilities, a University Affiliated Program at Utah State University.

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**Keep the Main
Thing the Main Thing!**